

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN RIDERS

FCR ROAD CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The main responsibility and priority of a Road Captain is the safety of all riders involved in a group ride, to make sure that people who attend our rides are provided a fun and safe experience. The Road Captain accomplishes this by assisting in ride planning, by conducting a rider safety/ rules of the road briefing, and by monitoring the behavior of the riders to insure that no one is riding in an unsafe manner or otherwise conducting themselves in a manner inconsistent with the Christian behavior expected of our riders.

If someone in the group is causing a hazard to themselves or those around them, the Road Captain shall take them aside at the earliest possible opportunity; explain to them the dangers, and ask them to stop the activity. If the person continues to present a hazard and refuses to listen and comply with their requests, the Road Captain is authorized to make sure that the offender has a copy of the route home and to advise them to leave the ride. We would rather have someone upset with us than risk having someone injured because of the unsafe acts of someone else.

RIDE PLANNING:

Provide assistance to member who is planning the ride to insure that it is thoroughly laid out and pre-ridden as close as possible to the ride date to identify any construction, detours, or safety hazards. Included in the planning process is planning for:

- Rest stops (usually at 50 mile intervals) and gas stops (at 100 mile intervals).
- Select restaurants (make reservations if needed) and list any points of interest on the ride.
- Prepare a ride route sheet to include the destination and total mileage, and all scheduled stops. (Whenever possible, try to avoid left turns in congested areas, it can be difficult and cause the group to become separated.)
- Only use Road Guards (traffic blockers) with the pre-approval and assistance of the local law enforcement authorities.

All FCR rides will have at least two Road Captains (Lead & Sweep). Additional Road Captains will be utilized as needed on larger group rides. The Lead Road Captain will lead and direct the ride. The Sweep Road Captain will ride last in line and makes sure no rider is left behind, and render assistance if needed.

RIDER BRIEFING

Before departing on a group ride, the Lead Road Captain will conduct a rider briefing to all participants. They will at a minimum:

- Introduce themselves and all other Road Captains to the group and explain their duties and location on the ride.
- Ensure all riders have filled out the required releases and have signed in for the ride.
- Remind everyone to have a full tank of gas.
- Make available a ride map or route to all those attending the ride.
- Explain the ride plans: destination, mileage, planned stops, points of interest.
- Identify when and where the Official Group Ride starts and ends.

- Go over hand signals and the importance of relaying them back through the group.
- Explain staggered and single file riding formations and importance of maintaining formation and distance intervals.
- Place new riders, trikes, and sidecars in the rear of the group, in front of the Sweep.
- Explain what happens in case a bike in the group has a mechanical breakdown or an accident occurs.
- Go over lane change and passing procedures.
- Ask if the riders have any questions or special concerns, i.e. medical, speed, small gas tanks, freeway traffic, twisty roads, or riding position.
- Take a count of the bikes attending the ride and share it with the Sweep.
- Inform all riders of the communications information that the Lead and Sweep Road Captains will use, if available. Riders are welcome to listen in and participate, but be mindful not to tie up the channel and impede communications.
- Explain that although the Road Captains will make the ride as safe as possible, each rider is ultimately responsible for their own safety.

CONDUCT A SAFE RIDE:

- Maintain a Safe Speed for conditions and rider's capabilities.
- Signal riders of intended lane changes, stops, road conditions and formation changes.
- Maintain control and integrity of the group.

LEAD RIDER REMINDERS:

- Make sure you are not riding beyond the means of the least experienced rider in the group.
- When coming to a stop sign, stop completely and allow all riders in the group to catch up before proceeding. Watch ahead and try to time your approach to traffic signals so that you arrive on a red light. This is the optimum situation and greatly helps to keep the group together.
- Ride within the posted speed limit. Do not ride any slower than absolutely required. Riding too slowly can become hazardous if annoyed drivers attempt to pass a large group at once.
- Do your best to keep the group together. Provide a means to re-group if the riders get separated.
- Do not pass a slow vehicle on a two-lane road unless you are **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** the entire group can make it safely. In most situations there will be no reason to pass a slow moving vehicle on a two-lane well traveled road. It's just not worth the risk!
- Try to use a center lane on interstate highways if available and possible. This will eliminate problems from traffic entering and leaving the highway.
- On Interstate roads, watch ahead for merging traffic and vary your speed accordingly to safely keep the group together. Most drivers do not like to ride in the middle of a group of motorcycles and will move out of the group as soon as possible. Never try to force a vehicle out of the group by slowing down, this can cause a very dangerous situation for the bikes at the rear of the group, due to the faster moving traffic behind them.